

Nason Construction wins state contract

Builder to manage Kent courthouse annex project

By JAMES MERRIWEATHER, The News Journal
Posted Monday, January 7, 2008

DOVER -- Nason Construction Inc. of Wilmington won a contract to become construction manager for the Kent County Courthouse project in Dover, according to Jennifer "JJ" Davis, director of the state [Office](#) of Management and Budget.

Sarah Bolado, spokeswoman for Davis, said \$23 million had been appropriated for the project, which will cost an estimated \$55 million to \$60 million. Gov. Ruth Ann Minner is expected to designate more money in her proposed capital projects budget for the fiscal year that begins July 1. The budget is due later this month.

"The funding has been spread out over several budget years," Bolado said last week, "but this will get us started."

The project has been on the drawing board for almost a decade.

The first step would be razing the Robert O'Brien Building just east of The Green in Dover to make way for a courthouse annex that would be linked to the 131-year-old Kent County Courthouse, which eventually would be renovated.

The project, tentatively scheduled for completion in July 2011, also would include a parking garage.

In approving \$3.65 million for the project in June, lawmakers said the total allocation would be enough to tear down the old building and erect the shell of the new one.

Michael Berardi, president of Nason Construction, said his company was happy to be aboard.

"Successfully completing the new Veterans Home in Milford this past summer brought our team great satisfaction," Berardi said, "and we are eager to partner with the state again on another spectacular project."

According to a news release issued by Davis' office, Nason was established in 1922 and now provides construction management, design-build and general contracting services to commercial, governmental and institutional clients throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. It maintains branch [offices](#) in Philadelphia and Salisbury, Md.

Contact James Merriweather at 678-4273 or jmerriweather@delawareonline.com.